

February 18, 1960

Dr. Elizabeth McCoy  
Department of Bacteriology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Elizabeth:

We have been working lately on the genetics of *Bacillus subtilis*, Marburg strain, with very interesting results on the transfer of genes by DNA. It occurred to us that we had no reason to think this strain is the best suited to invest much effort for further work and we should do a brief survey. Could you conveniently furnish us with some few dozen *Bacillus* cultures, *B. subtilis* or otherwise, that have been characterized to some degree, or which carry a useful strain number or designation? We have no a priori prejudices as to which strains should be the most suitable candidates but plan to look among the aerobic spore-formers as a group.

With best regards,

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg

McCoy, E.